

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Spirit Electronics

Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Spirit Electronics Improves Order Processing with Assistance from Arizona MEP

Client Profile:

Spirit Electronics, founded in 1979, is a distributor specializing in supplying products and services to the defense/aerospace industry. Services offered include third-party logistics, procurement services, component tape/reel, dry bake, packaging, kitting, and other component prep operations. Product lines include active and passive components, connectors, and electromechanical devices. Spirit Electronics currently employs 11 people at its facility in Phoenix, Arizona.

Situation:

Spirit Electronics is an organization that is committed to continually improving its internal operations and is known for its commitment to its customers. On-time delivery and quality performance enables Spirit to maintain preferred/certified vendor status with its customer base. The company was looking for ways to improve quality, accuracy, and throughput via the optimization of current processes in order to support new growth opportunities and contacted the Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (AZMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

AZMEP worked with Spirit Electronics on a three-phase project plan. John Little, Director of AZMEP, performed an assessment of the company's strengths and opportunities for improvement. Second, implementing a Value Stream Map (VSM) of the company's order management processes helped to identify primary work areas. Following the VSM project, the AZMEP team helped Spirit develop a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) to provide order to daily activities, bringing continuous improvement to their order processing. Finally, a three-day Kaizen event helped create standardized work stations with a visual, more efficient work environment.

Results:

- * Realized \$35,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced 32-step manufacturing process to 14 steps.
- * Shortened overall lead time.

Testimonial:

"Arizona MEP has given Spirit Electronics some powerful tools to use for continuous improvement and growth."

Vickie Wessel, President